

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-15, 18, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28, 32, and 33 are pending. No new matter has been added.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 7-10, 12-20, 23-24, 27-28, 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi, and further in view of Takagi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,980,956).

Claimed Invention

An aspect of the claimed invention is the combination of a likelihood of input speech matching a condition for transitioning from one process to another process with a weighting factor associated the condition. In particular, the likelihood is multiplied with the weighting factor to produce a discrimination result. The independent claims have been amended accordingly. For example, claim 7 recites (see also similarly amended independent claims 14, 23, 24, 27, 32, and 33):

7. A device control device comprising:
- input information recognition means which recognizes input information to be input;
 - process-item data storing means which stores a plurality of process items for executing processes corresponding to recognized information recognized by the input information recognition means; and
 - transition-definition data storing means which stores plural pieces of transition definition data defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process items to another process item, wherein
 - each piece of said transition definition data includes a condition corresponding to input information and a weighting factor corresponding to said condition,
 - said recognized information includes a likelihood indicating a status of matching between said input information and the condition of said transition definition data,
 - said weighting factor included in said transition definition data being multiplied with said likelihood included in said recognized information, thereby obtaining a result of discrimination for the condition of each transition definition data thus stored, and

a piece of transition definition data is selected based on said discrimination result, and a status is transitioned to a process item designated by the selected transition definition data.

Dependent Claim 11

Claim 11 has been amended in accordance with amendments made to base claim 7. The Section 112 rejection of claim 11 is believed to be overcome by virtue of cancellation of the “status” limitation in the claim.

Independent Claims 7, 14, 23, 24, 27, 32, and 33

A distinctive aspect of the claimed invention, as recited in independent Claims 7, 14, 23, 24, 27, 32, and 33 is the arithmetic product of a weighting factor and the likelihood as the discrimination result.

The Office action correctly notes that Sekiguchi does not teach “weighting factor ... included in the transition definition data” or “said weighting factor included in said transition definition data being multiplied with said likelihood.” The Office action, however, incorrectly construed Takagi as teaching “weighting factor.” Col. 13, lines 32-37 was cited; it reads:

According to the above described embodiment, corresponding transition probability in the probability automaton as a behavioral model can be changed only when voice of a 35 predetermined pattern is detected or when pressure of a predetermined size and length is detected. However, the

The mere description of “changing” the transition probability does not imply the presence of a “weighting factor included in the transition definition data.” In fact, a review of the equations shown in column 7 does not reveal such a weighting factor. The equation on line 25 involves the use of “L”, an improvement ratio, which is not taught as being included in transition definition data. Likewise, the equations on lines 35 and 62 simply uses “M” which is the number of behaviors, and is not included in transition definition data. The equation on line 52 uses a lowering ratio, which is not taught as being included in transition definition data.

Accordingly, Takagi does not teach “said weighting factor included in said transition definition data being multiplied with said likelihood included in said recognized information, thereby obtaining a result of discrimination for the condition of each transition definition data thus stored.” For at least this reason, the pending independent claims and their respective dependent claims are not obvious in view of the cited art.

Independent claims 14, 24, and 33

Independent claims 14, 24, and 33 and their respective dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the additional following reason:

As described in paragraph [0085] of the application as published (U.S. Publication No. 2008/0228492), an agent processing unit can add transition definition data. For example, the agent processing unit performs this addition when the number of jumps from one process item to another is counted and the count reaches a predetermined number.

As described in paragraph [0089], the agent processing unit changes the transition constant k corresponding to a wire in accordance with the number of times a transition represented by the wire was executed in the past. The agent processing unit rewrites the wire so that the weighting factor J is a value calculated in accordance with the transition constant k that have been changed.

As described in paragraph [0082], the agent processing unit can exclude (delete) a wire. For example, the agent processing unit exclude a process whose product $S \cdot J$ does not reach a predetermined value.

Accordingly, the aforementioned features of claims 14, 24, 28, and 33 are neither disclosed nor suggested by Sekiguchi and Takagi, and the features of claims 14, 24, 28, and 33 would have been distinguishable over a combination of Sekiguchi and Takagi.

Appl. No. 10/581,434
Amdt. dated March 24, 2010
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2626

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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